

Stage 5 Leader of Learning NEED TO KNOW
Term 2, 2022



Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of Penola Catholic College

I have been very impressed with Stage 5 students who started the year strongly during Term One despite the many challenges they have faced due to COVID and also the flooding in the local area. Students have been fully engaged with their learning as well as involving themselves in the many extra-curricular activities that have been offered this term.

By now you would have received the Student Learning Performance report for your child in each of their subjects. Please be mindful this is a snapshot of your child's progress thus far and an end of Semester 1 report will be sent via Compass towards the conclusion of Term Two.

In day to day life our students can be faced with many challenges that can, on occasion, extend beyond the classroom. Your child's homeroom teacher is always available for help, support or a conversation. As we enter the holiday break, I am mindful that families may require additional support and therefore I am including the kids help line link for families and students to access should the need arise. This website is most useful for helping families and young people navigate some of the complexities of their world.

[Kids help line](#)

Winter Uniform

Students return to school for Term 2 on Tuesday 26 April, after the ANZAC Day Public Holiday. The changeover from summer to winter uniform for Term 2 is always difficult to determine with our changing weather patterns. However, we have decided that Week 1 and 2 being the changeover period when students can choose to wear winter or summer uniforms — not a mixture of them — depending on the weather, with the beginning of **Week 3 Monday 9 May** being the time all students should be in their Winter Uniform.

Friendship

At our last assembly, I spoke about friendship. There is no greater lesson to be learnt than to be treated as you treat others. I continue to implore students to think about how they treat others. Be the friend you wish to have. As the year progresses and issues arise, this will be the first question I ask of students. Are you being the friend you wish to have? and importantly, are you being kind?

Open Night

Thank you to the Year 9 and 10 students that assisted on Open Day. I was more than impressed with the demonstration of our values throughout the evening. The hospitality and respect you showed to visitors and others in our community was uplifting. Thank you to all the students and staff for instilling in our visitors a sense of community and belonging.

Sport Update from Miss Muscat

Penola has had a wonderful start to the year with our sporting accomplishments and we are so proud of all our athletes!

On the 25 February we held our annual Swimming Carnival. Students registered to attend and turned up to compete for a place on the Penola Swim Team. From this carnival, we had 20 students qualify to represent Penola on the 11 March at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, at the PDSSSC Swimming Championships. From this event, we had Jack Barry (Year 8) and Maya Bailey (Year 10) qualify to represent the Parramatta Diocese at the CSNSW event. This is such an amazing achievement, and we wish them the best of luck!

Penola has also had a number of students trial in a range of PDSSSC sports this term, with many more registered for upcoming trials. Congratulations to the following students for their achievements in being selected for a PDSSSC team:

Jhett Sydir - PDSSSC U15s Rugby League Team 1 and Touch Football
Lachlan Wraight - PDSSSC U15s Rugby League Team 2

Events to look forward to this year include our competitors only Penola Cross Country on Friday 8 April and our whole school Penola Athletics Carnival held on 20 May. More information on these events will follow.

We are so proud of all of our athletes and wish them the best of luck in their future sporting pathways. Please keep an eye on our Penola Sport website for all closing dates and carnival information accessible via

<https://sites.google.com/parra.catholic.edu.au/penola-sport/home>

NAPLAN

Parents/Carers will receive information regarding NAPLAN Tests for Year 9 via COMPASS early in Term 2. The College will ensure students are familiar with the format of the tests before the NAPLAN test window. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress. The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Homework Help

Homework help has recommenced on Monday afternoons in the school library from 3pm to 4pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who require assistance with homework or assignments, and I would encourage all Stage 5 students to make use of this fantastic resource.

Year 10 Dinner Dance

This year, a decision was made that the College will no longer hold a Year 10 Dinner Dance. There are a number of reasons in support of this decision:

- Penola Catholic College is a 7-12 College in which more than 75% of students move through Year 10 to complete Year 12. Therefore, Year 12 is the graduation point of the college.
- Many families find a dinner dance to be costly and some parents felt they just could not afford the expense of such an event.
- Staffing is always difficult to host an event such as this.

We understand that this decision may be disappointing for some students, however, it was made in consideration of feedback received from the wider College community. We look forward to continuing to celebrate the end of school milestones in Year 12 - 2024 at the graduation ceremony and formal events.

Calendar of Key Dates

Updated information will be provided if any of the following dates are changed regarding Staff Learning – Pupil Free Days for the remainder of 2022. To assist with your planning, our next Staff Learning - Pupil Free Day is Friday 10 June. The other Staff Learning-Pupil Free Days for this year are Monday 18 July, Friday 18 November and Tuesday 20 December. Please contact the college a week before each Staff Learning-Pupil Free Day if you require supervision for your children on these days at school.

End of Term 1 and Term 2 Major events

that affect parents/carers and students across Years 7 - 12

Thursday 7 April	LS1 - Year 10 Easter Liturgy LS2 - Year 9 Easter Liturgy
Friday 8 April	Year 7-12 ANZAC Day Ceremony
Friday 8 April	Penola Cross Country
Friday 8 April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 26 April	Term 2 Week 1 commences for all students. We commence with Week B of the timetable. Please refer to Compass for any timetable changes for Week 1B.
Monday 9 May	Parramatta Secondary Diocesan Team Tennis Gala Day
Monday 10 May - Thursday 20 May	Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN Writing, Reading, Language and Numeracy (Catch up exams Tuesday 18th-Thursday 20th May)
Friday 13 May	Parramatta Secondary Diocesan Cross Country
Wednesday 18 May	Nepean Careers Market Years 10 and 12
Friday 20 May	Athletics Carnival
Monday 30 May - Tuesday 14 June	Tell Them From Me Student, Parents/Carers/Staff Surveys
Tuesday 31 May	College Photographs
Wednesday 1 June	Parramatta Secondary Diocesan Years 7-10 Boys and Girls Football Gala Day
Tuesday 7 June	2023 Years 9,10 and 11 Pathways/Subject Information Evening (4:00pm - 6:00pm)
Friday 10 June	Staff Learning - Pupil Free Day
Monday 13 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 14 June	Report for Semester 1 Released for Years 7-10
Monday 20 June	Year 10 Vaccination Meningococcal - ACWY
Tuesday 28 June	Parent/Carer/Student/ Teacher Interviews 7-12 (4:00pm - 6:30pm)
Tuesday 28 June	Years 7-11 Semester 1 Academic Award Ceremonies
Friday 1 July	Parent/Carer/Student/ Teacher Interviews 7-12 (9:00am - 3:00pm)
Friday 1 July	Last Day of Term 2

College Uniform

Our college community takes great pride in wearing our college uniform and as a result, we have specific expectations and guidelines around uniform attire for our students. Our Penola uniform is most significant as it identifies and unites us as a community while also meeting the WHS requirements. We ask families to support the college with our uniform policy and ensure students are dressed appropriately in the correct school uniform. Please spend time with your child to read through pages 18-23 of the College Diary to better understand the college uniform requirements. Some items to note:

- Long hair must be tied back
- Extreme haircuts are not permitted. These include mullets, undercuts, scalp designs etc.
- Hair must be one natural colour
- No visible body piercings are permitted. These include facial, nose and tongue piercings. One small set of silver or gold round, stud earrings in the lower earlobe only.
- One simple/discrete gold or silver chain around the neck with an appropriate religious symbol may be worn. Please read page 19 of the College Diary to better understand the jewellery expectations.
- Sports Jackets cannot be worn with the summer or winter college uniform. Students must wear the jumper or blazer with their summer uniform or winter uniform if they are cool.

- For safety reasons, shoes must be black, polished, hard leather, laced up and closed-in school shoes. This is a WHS requirement. Soft leather, casual, sports or skater shoes are not permitted with their everyday College uniform.
- Athletic style running shoes are the only sports shoes that can be worn with the college PE uniform. Canvas style casual running shoes are not to be worn for safety reasons for PE or Sport.
- Penola uniform socks (grey/blue stripe) can be purchased only through LOWES.

We continue to enjoy working alongside you in supporting your child's educational journey. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McKnight', written in a cursive style.

*Mr John McKnight
Stage 5 Leader of Learning*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Fanning', written in a cursive style.

*Mr Jim Fanning
Principal Leader*